

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (Withdrawn) A disk rotating apparatus comprising:
a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed therefrom; and
an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk, a gap between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, and said airbearing device is moveable away from said disk held by said rotating shaft.
2. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a rotating shaft that holds a disk selectively mounted or removed therefrom;
a disk rotator that rotates said disk around said rotating shaft; and
a positioner that positions a head with respect to said disk, and performs an information recording and/or information reproduction operation; and
an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk, wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with wherein said air-bearing device being is separable from said disk held by said rotating shaft, and wherein said air-bearing device prevents a vibration of said disk during rotation.
3. (Currently amended) A disk rotating apparatus comprising:
a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed therefrom;
an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk, wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, and wherein said air-bearing device prevents a vibration of said disk during rotation; and

a disk support for supporting said disk and for moving said disk back and forth in a direction of axis of said rotating shaft while said surface of said disk is being supported.

4. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a rotating ~~shaft~~shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed ~~therefrom~~ therefrom;

a positioner that positions a head with respect to said disk, and which performs and information recording and/or information reproduction operation;

an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk, ~~and wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, and wherein said air-bearing device prevents a vibration of said disk during rotation~~; and

a disk support for supporting said disk and for moving ~~said~~said disk back and forth in a direction of axis of said rotating shaft while said surface of said disk is being supported.

5. (Withdrawn) A disk rotating apparatus comprising:

a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed therefrom;

an air bearing device having a smooth surface acting a surface of said disk, wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk support for supporting said disk and for moving said disk back and forth in a direction of axis of said rotating shaft while said surface and an end face of said disk are being supported.

6. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed therefrom;

a positioner that positions a head with respect to said disk and performs a
information recording and/or information reproduction operation;
an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk,
wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said
disk is 300 microns or smaller; and
a disk support for moving said disk back and forth in a direction of axis of said
rotating shaft while supporting said surface and an end face of said disk.

7. (Withdrawn) A disk rotating apparatus comprising:

a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed
therefrom;
an air bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk,
wherein a gap between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk
is 300 microns or smaller, said air-bearing device comprising a space for
accessing an end part of said disk, said space being selected from a
group consisting of an indentation, a cut-out, a through-hole, and any
combination thereof.

8. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed
therefrom;
a positioner that positions a head with respect to said disk, and performs an
information recording and/or information reproduction operation;
an in-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk,
wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said
disk is 300 microns or smaller, said air-bearing device having a space for
accessing an end part of said disk, said space being selected from a
group consisting of an indentation, a cut out , a through hole, and any
combinations thereof at said surface facing said disk.

9. (Withdrawn) A disk rotating apparatus, comprising:

a rotating shaft that rotates a disk around said rotating shaft;
an air-bearing device, having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk,
wherein a gap between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk
is 300 microns or smaller; and
a disk holder for being selectively mounted on and demounted from said disk
rotating apparatus, said disk holder mounted on demounted from said disk
rotating apparatus while holding said disk.

10. (Withdrawn) An apparatus, comprising:

a rotating shaft for holding a disk selectively mounted and removed therefrom;
a positioner for positioning a head with respect to said disk, and performing an
information recording and/or information reproduction operation;
an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing said surface of said disk,
wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said
disk is 300 microns or smaller; and
a disk holder selectively mounted on and demounted from said disk rotating
apparatus, said disk holder selectively mounted on and demounted from
said disk rotating apparatus while holding said disk.

11. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk ~~selectively~~ selectively mounted and
removed ~~therefrom~~ therefrom;
a positioner that positions said head with respect to said disk, and performs an
information recording and/or information reproduction operation;
an air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk,
wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said
disk is 300 microns or smaller, said disk rotating apparatus being mounted
on and demounted from said apparatus while still holding said disk.

12. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively mounted and removed therefrom;
a disk rotator that rotates said disk around said rotating shaft;
a positioner that positions a head with respect to said disk, and performs an information recording and/or information reproduction operation;
at least one air-bearing device having a smooth surface facing a surface of said disk, wherein a space between said smooth surface and said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and
a moveable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading said heads.

13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a moveable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of a head.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~claim 1~~ of claim 2, wherein said rotating shaft has a part thereof that engages with said disk, with said engaging part having an engagement tolerance such that said disk slides along said rotating shaft while maintaining a substantially horizontal posture with respect to said air bearing means.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in claim 1~~ of claim 2, wherein said airbearing device has a part thereof that faces at least a port of said surface of said disk and a part continuous therewith that protrudes from said disk.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in 4~~ of claim 2, wherein said smooth surface of said air-bearing device is selected from a group consisting of a ring-shaped and a shape that envelopes a ring with a round hole on the inside thereof.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in claim 1~~ of claim 2, further comprising an anchor for selectively anchoring said rotating shaft.